

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,277,350 ("Thornbury"). Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Thornbury in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,868,348 ("Bulman"). Claims 9-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent App. Publ. 2001/0029814 ("Tiano") in view of Thornbury. Claims 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tiano in view of Thornbury, and further in view of Bulman. Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tiano in view of Thornbury, and further in view of admitted prior art.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has deemed claim 21 allowable.

Claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 2, 7, 10, 13 and 14 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11, 15, 16 and 21 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Amendments

Claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended to recite limitations similar to those found in claim 21. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and particularly at paragraph 22 on page 6 and figures 3A and 3B.

Independent Claims 1 and 9

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Thornbury. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tiano in view of Thornbury.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 to recite limitations similar to those in allowed claim 21. Applicant respectfully submits that for the same reasons claim 21 is allowable, claims 1 and 9 are also allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 9.

Dependent Claims 3-6, 11, 15, and 16

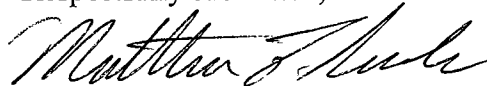
Claims 3-6, 11, 15, and 16 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 or 9, and are therefore believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

For at least all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew T. Sarles
Reg. No. 58,696

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TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
MTS:cmb
60948884 v1